

2002 Report of Accomplishments Skagit Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2002 - Summary

- 161 acres of new CREP buffer were installed
- Volunteers contributed over \$37,000 in labor on natural resource projects
- 55 dairies met state mandates for planning to reduce nutrients
- 14 forestry cooperators implemented best management practices to reduce sediment and improve fish & wildlife habitat
- Over 12 miles of logging roads were treated for erosion control to prevent sedimentation of salmon streams
- 36 culverts were replaced and 18 culverts were added to prevent road failure and mass wasting on logging roads.



Mission of the Skagit Conservation District

- To provide voluntary, incentive based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base.

Water Quality Implementation/Small Farm Program

- Ten conservation plans were completed.
- Four pasture management plans were completed.
- SCD personnel provided technical assistance for the following design/implementation projects: a roof runoff management system, a silage leachate collection system, a compost system, an underground outlet design, a solid waste storage structure, and a stock water design.
- Encouraged participation through design and mailing of a Small Farm Program brochure.

Professional Engineering

- Oversee design, permits, & construction of earth-fill causeway & bridge replacement for fish passage.
- Designs for a bridge for CREP access, controls for lowering beaver ponds, stock watering piping system to improve water quality.
- Provided technical assistance to landowners on permit applications, monitoring of past projects, and the beginning of the watershed characterization study for water quality and fish habitat improvements for No Name Slough.
- Provided technical oversight district employees on projects

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 23 CREP projects were implemented, utilizing 71,000 trees & shrubs planted on over 161 acres for a total of 9.5 miles of riparian buffer to provide benefits to water quality and fish and wildlife.
- 34 new CREP plans were written and are ready for implementation in 2003; bringing the total number contracts in Skagit County to 56.

Dairy

- 17 dairy plans written & approved; 55 of 56 Skagit dairies met mandated July 1st planning deadline.
- 6 dairies met the criteria for full implementation and achieved certification status.
- 3 dairies had their certified plans updated.

Puget Sound/Basic Funding/Local Funding

These funding sources were combined to support our Conservation Education and Forestry Programs. Our accomplishments include:

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- Twenty individuals completed the Fall 2002 Watershed Masters Training Program (Class IX), bring the total participants to date to 216
- Volunteer hours contributed on environmental projects and education: Over 900 hours (900 hours @ \$16.05/hr (current volunteer rate) = \$14,445)

- Overall volunteer hours: over 7,000 hours recorded (however, the majority of Watershed Masters continue their volunteer work well beyond the required 40 documented hours) – 7,000 hours @ \$ 16.05/hr. = \$112,350.00

Skagit Stream Team Program

- 28 volunteers were recognized for participating in the 2001-02 sampling season (September 2001 thru June 2002).
- 24 sites, located in the Nookachamps, Padilla Bay, and Samish Watersheds were monitored.
- Fecal coliform tests lab rates for sampling season valued at \$23,328 (this figure does not include other parameters tested, field time, nor data compilation time).

Volunteer Shellfish Monitoring Program

- 12 community volunteers trained for 2002 sampling season.
- 7 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches sampled for PSP by volunteers twice/ month from May through September.

Environmental Education

- 10 school presentations were conducted to a total of (approximately) 238 students. Topics included, the "Value and Function of Trees"; Watersheds and Water Quality (using the enviroscape model); Amphibians and Wetlands; Aquatic Insects; Soils; and Salmon and Stream Ecology.
- The Annual 6th Grade Conservation Tour was held at Pomona Grange Park on May 14th and 15th. Seventeen sixth grade classes participated in the event (approximately 425 students).
- Informational packets, promoting the District's school presentation and youth education programs were redesigned and distributed to approximately 738 local teachers. The packets also include information about the supplemental curriculum materials and educational videos that the District has available in the SCD educational library for teachers to borrow.
- Soil and Water Stewardship Week - A community proclamation in recognition of "Soil & Water Stewardship Week" was televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners meeting. A poster contest for local youth (grades k-12) was conducted with 202 youth participating.
- Skagit County Earth Day Celebration and Kids Festival - 16 Local agencies/organizations hosting hands on displays in Earth Day barn. Attendance at event: 1,000 through gate; 450 youth participated in the Earth Day "I Spy Passport" program.
- Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival - Developed and hosted educational booth - Audience: 900+.
- Skagit County Family Harvest Festival: Developed and hosted an educational booth and distributed educational and program promotional materials at Merritt's Apple Farm on October 5th Audience: 900+ and at the Double O Ranch in Concrete on October 6th – Audience: 60.
- "Estuarine Restoration" Workshop (Partnership with Skagit Watershed Council): 98 attendees
- Year of Clean Water Local Events (National Water Quality Monitoring Day): 20 community adult volunteers participated in monitoring 24 stations located in the Nookachamps, Padilla Bay, and Samish Watersheds for temperature, pH, turbidity, and DO. Data for each station was entered on the national web-site. A "Year of Clean Water" educational event was coordinated and hosted by staff for 28 students from Anacortes Middle School at Pomona Grange Park. A "Year of Clean Water" community workshop was held on October 18th at the PBNERR. 21 participants attended.

Newsletters and Fliers

- Informational brochure to 1,158 landowners highlighting the small farm technical assistance program.
- Skagit Conservation News – sent to mailing list of approximately 3,200 on a quarterly basis.
- Stream Team News – for Stream Team volunteers to update on monitoring and upcoming events.
- Watershed Masters Calendar of Upcoming Events – Periodic mailing to 220+ individuals to provide information regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities and other community events.
- Watershed Masters & Stream Team programs promotional brochures – distribution: 2,500

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

